

SECTION I – SHORT TITLE

Safe Interactions Act of 2021

SECTION II – FINDINGS

1. People with disabilities are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of violent crime.
2. People with disabilities are 3 times more likely to be victims of serious crime.
3. People with disabilities make up between one-third and one-half of all people killed by law enforcement officers.

SECTION III – PURPOSES

To provide funding to nonprofit disability organizations to partner with law enforcement agencies to administer enhanced training programs to law enforcement officers about interactions with people with disabilities. The trainings will:

- a) Increase the awareness, knowledge and understanding of law enforcement officers about people with disabilities and their needs in order to reduce instances of violence between law enforcement officers and members of the disability community.
- b) Expand the knowledge of law enforcement officers to be aware of the possibility a person may have a disability and to provide personnel with effective ways to interact with people with disabilities to maximize their safety and minimize situations of risk for all parties involved.
- c) Increase the knowledge of law enforcement officers of community resources available for people with disabilities to reduce the need for law enforcement personnel to address non-law enforcement needs.

SECTION IV – DEFINITIONS

Provides definitions for eligible entities, covered individuals, initial training program and refresher training program.

SECTION V – GRANT PROGRAM SECTION

Section 5a – Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services will Oversee Grant Funds for the Act

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services will award grants to nonprofit disability organizations to conduct training programs for law enforcement personnel who interact with people with disabilities.

Section 5b – Guidelines for Applications

Eligible entities must form a relationship with a law enforcement agency to receive funds and develop and deliver the training program. Applications must also describe the training with a timeline for completion and show expertise in trainings regarding identifying, approaching, interacting and communicating with people with disabilities.

Section 5c – Prioritization of Geographic Diversity and Rural Locations

Grant awards will prioritize geographic diversity of recipients, particularly those that serve rural localities, racial and ethnic diversity, including those that serve black, indigenous, people of

color with disabilities and have them represented in their leadership, and the inclusion of multiple levels of law enforcement in trainings.

Section 5d – Use of Funds

Funds must be used to modify existing trainings for new law enforcement officers to provide a minimum of eight hours of training, with at least four hours taught by a person with a disability. Funds must also be used to provide additional annual trainings of at least four hours to existing law enforcement officers.

Section 5e – Supplement, not Supplant

Funds cannot be used in place of existing funds that are designated for law enforcement trainings.

Section 5f – Establishment of an Advisory Council

Grant recipients must establish an advisory council to oversee grant activities, including program development, sustainability and expansion. The councils must be chaired by a person with a disability, vice-chaired by a member of a law enforcement agency, and be composed of representatives of community and state organizations that serve people with disabilities.

Section 5g – Annual Report

Recipients must submit annual reports on the number of individuals trained and the number of people affected by the trainings, including demographic data on law enforcement officers trained and partner agencies involved.

Section 5h – Evaluation

Up to two percent of funds may be used for administration and external evaluation of the program.

SECTION VI – AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS

\$100,000,000 is allocated for grant activities in each fiscal year 2022 through 2025.